

RIC/1744

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing 24 SEP 2002  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

8049.4-304

## IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/US01/08492

International filing date (day/month/year)

18 MARCH 2001

Priority Date (day/month/year)

17 MARCH 2000

Applicant

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

## 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB.301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20031

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JAMES TRAMMELL

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Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)\*

9/24/02

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 8049.4-304	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US01/08498	International filing date (day/month/year) 16 MARCH 2001	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 MARCH 2000
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): H06F 17/60 and US Cl.: 705/1		
Applicant UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17 OCTOBER 2001	Date of completion of this report 14 DECEMBER 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20581	Authorized officer JAMES TRAMMELL <i>Peggy Hanod</i>
Facsimile No. (703) 505-5230	Telephone No. (703) 505-5257

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/08492

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed  
☒ the description:  
pages 1-33 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
pages 34-48 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages 1-60 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ the claims, Nos. NONE \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ the drawings, sheets/fig. NONE \_\_\_\_\_

5. ☐ This report has been drawn up as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\*Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/08402

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. statement**

Novelty (N)

Claims	1-78	YES
Claims	NONE	NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims	1-78	YES
Claims	NONE	NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims	1-78	YES
Claims	NONE	NO

**2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Claims 1-78 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 35(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an electronic account (104) provided to a customer (100) to enable the customer to access electronic services, such as e-mail and electronic transaction. The electronic account links an electronic address of the customer (104) to a physical address (902) of the customer. Using the electronic account, electronic services can be provided to the customer at either the electronic or physical addresses, or both. The services can be both secure and non-secure and can be provided by any service provider such as an online merchant, a government agency, or a bank. (Figure 1).

\_\_\_\_\_ NEW CITATIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
NONE